(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) As per 1981 Census, it is 22.43 per cent.

(b) The allocation to the tribal area subplan in the minor irrigation sector works out to 25.6 per cent under the Seventh Plan.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Minor Irrigation is treated as one of the family oriented-cum-income generating schemes for which special Central assistance for tribal development is admissible. Utilisation of the special Central assistance for Minor Irrigation in Orissa was about Rs. 82 lakhs in 1987-88.

Amendment in election laws

*37. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what action is being taken by Government to effect comprehensive electoral reforms and to amend the election laws;

(b) whether there is any proposal to fix a *date line* for the above purpose; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) Various proposals to bring about electoral reforms are under active consideration of the Government and they are likely to be finalised early.

Scientists working under 'scientists pool scheme'

*38. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of scientists at present working in various laboratories under the "Scientists Pool Scheme"; and

(b) what are the main features of this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The number of working Pool Officers in different types of organisations as on 30.6.88 is 625.

(b) Under the Scheme, young unemployed highly qualified scientists, technologists, medical personnel etc. (with Ph. D/M. Tech/MD or equivalent degrees) trained abroad or in India are provided temporary placement in institutions, preferably of their choice, or those where their expertise could be utilised properly, normally for a period of two years, with possibilities of extension of tenure by one year. During this period, they are paid salaries comparable to Scientist B, C & EI of CSIR, and are expected to look around for regular jobs. The selections are made by the UPSC on the recommendations of disciplinewise special recruitment boards on the basis of academic record, professional experience, research publications and their performance in interviews.

Selection to the Pool is a continuous process. Applications are received throughout the year and each subject field selection committee normally meets three to four times in a year. During the Calendar year 1987, 353 scientific and technical personnel joined the Pool, and 240 left it.

The scheme was started in 1958 and upto 30-6-1988, 8404 scientific and technical personnel have benefited from it. Of these 6498 returned from abroad after higher education/training. 625 persons were working under the scheme as on 30-6-1988. Of these nearly 48 per cent are scientists, about 44 per cent are medical personnel, and the rest 8 per cent are engineers and technologists etc.

Selected Pool Officers, wherever necessary, are assisted by CSIR in obtaining placement in suitable institutions in order

to enable them to begin work as early as possible. Their bio-data are also forwarded against vacancies brought to the notice of the CSIR from time to time. In addition, their bio-data are printed in "Directory of Indian Scientific & Technical Personnel", and copies thereof circulated to employing organisations such as Universities, IITs, R & D organisations, Government Departments, and public sector industrial undertakings, to facilitate their absorption.

District Level Planning

*39. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to undertake 'district level planning' with the participation of the district colectors or district magistrates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Collectors are alreardy associated with the planning process at the district level. In almost all States, there are District Planning bodies and Collectors are associated with these bodies.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Visit of CPM Leaders to China

*40. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some C.P.M. Leaders visited China during early June, 1988; and

(b) if so, whether the Prime Minister was apprised of their discussions with the Government of China?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since his return, Shri Jyoti Basu had had a conversion with Prime Minister giving his impressions of the China visit.

Vedic mathematics for computer soft ware

208. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to examine the views of scientists regarding the possibility of development of Institutional Thinking in the manufacture of computer soft-ware by use of Vedic Mathematics and also for increasing the speed of computers; and

(b) if so, the progress so far made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

Visit of Indian Delegations to China

209. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Indian delegations that visited China during each of the last three years, giving their dates of visit and composition;

(b) what is the number of Chinese delegations which visited India during each of the last three years giving their dates of visit and composition; and

(c) what is the impact of these visits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) to (c) A statement comprising lists of delegations on bilateral visits to and from